

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 23, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-196-Lancaster-Noxon [mile 64-73])

TO: Joe Johnson  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFS/Kalispell

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management for the Lancaster-Noxon 230 kV transmission lines corridor.

**Location:** Project location is in the BPA Spokane Region in Sanders County, Montana.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation from the rights of way and access roads for Lancaster-Noxon transmission line corridor.

**Analysis:** A checklist (see attached) was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285). The checklist evaluated the following areas:

- *Description of right-of-way and vegetation management needed*
- *Vegetation to be controlled*
- *Surrounding land use and landowners*
- *Natural Resources*
- *Vegetation control methods*
- *Debris disposal*
- *Monitoring*
- *Appropriate environmental documentation*

In preparation of this Supplement Analysis, the checklists were reviewed. Specific information regarding the areas as identified above is described in the attached checklists.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Aaron Shurtliff  
Aaron Shurtliff  
Physical Environmental Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Robert Beraud for  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 3/26/2004

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4  
T. McKinney – KEC-4  
J. Meyer – KEP-4  
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4  
M. Rosales – KEPR/Bell-1  
P. Key – LC-7  
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2  
D. Labrosse – TFS-BELL-1  
M. Barrows – TFSF-BELL-1  
Environmental. File – KEC-4  
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

# **Vegetation Management Checklist**

*(LANCASTER-NOXON)*

# 1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

## 1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See Handbook — [List of Right-of-way Components](#) for checkboxes and the requirements for the components [Rights-of-way](#), [Access Roads](#), [Switch Platforms](#), [Danger Trees](#), and [Microwave Beam paths](#).

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Lancaster-Noxon	73 Miles/230 Kv	125'	10 miles

### Right Of Way:

**Right-of-Way** – clearing in right-of-way

**Transmission Structures** – clearing around

Reclaim (“C”) Trees

Danger Tree clearing

## 1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types](#), [Density](#), [Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

### Vegetation Types:

Douglas Fir

Pine

Spruce

Larch

Maple

Density: Medium (50 – 250 stems/per acre)

## 1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why. See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

Tall-growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the line will be removed. (In places where tall growing vegetation must be left in place, it may not be possible to promote low-growing plants.)

Vegetation that will grow tall will be selectively eliminated *before* it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing species.

Desirable low-growing plants will not be disturbed. Only selective vegetation control methods that have little potential to harm non-target vegetation will be used.

## 1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - [Overall Management Scheme/Schedule](#).

**Initial entry** – Danger Trees/”C” Trees will be cut, r/w brush cut, chipped & mulched as needed by contract brush crews.

**Subsequent entries** – No follow up needed

**Future cycles** – No major brush/danger tree control will be needed for 7 – 10 years

**2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS**

**2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.**

See Handbook — [Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for requirements, and [List of Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for a checkbox list.

Rural  
 Agricultural  
 Forest Service– Kootenai National Forest/ Cabinet Ranger District

**2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., doorhanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.**

See Handbook — [Methods for Notification and Requesting Information](#) for requirements.

Notification will be by mail, USFS will be contracted in person.

**2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.**

See handbook — [Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses](#) for requirements and guidance, also [Residential/Commercial](#), [Agricultural](#), [Tribal Reservations](#), [FS-managed lands](#), [BLM –managed lands](#), [Other federal lands](#), [State/ Local Lands](#).

Residential/Commercial:

The following landowners have responsibility for vegetation maintenance.

Span		Landowner	Agreement ID number (?)
To	From		
65/1 +720'	65/2 +353'	Private Owner	T&B Agreement No- 85142

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
65/1 +720'	65/2 +353'	Tree & Brush Agreement	No Control at the present time

**2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.**

See handbook — [Landowner Agreements](#) for requirements.

One active T&B agreement, see item 2.3

**2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure’s to take due to the informal use.**

See handbook — [Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way](#) for requirements.

None Known

**2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.**

See handbook — [Other Potentially Affected Publics](#) for requirements and suggestions.

None

### 3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

See Handbook — [Natural Resources](#)

#### 3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.

See Handbook — [Water Resources](#) for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer
To	From						
65/2 +516'	65/2 +570'	Bull River	Bull Trout	Cutting only	None	None	35 Feet
67/5 - 240'	67/5 - 50'	Swamp	None	Cutting only	None	None	35 Feet
68/1	68/4	Multi creeks & swamp	Possible Bull Trout	Cutting only	None	None	35 Feet
69/3	69/5	Slough off Clark Fork river	Possible Bull Trout	NC			
70/2 +275'	70/2 +335'	Govt creek	Possible Bull Trout	Cutting only Cutting only	None None	None None	35 Feet 35 Feet
72/1 +800'	72/1 +844'	Rock Creek Water edge of	Possible Bull Trout	Cutting only	None	None	35 Feet
73/3 +560'		Clark Fork River	Possible Bull Trout				

#### 3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).

See Handbook — Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

None identified at this time

#### 3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.

See Handbook — [T&E Plant or Animal Species](#) for requirements and determining presence.

T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
Bull Trout	<p>Low-growing vegetation that provides shade along waterways will be protected. A 35-foot buffer will be observed to protect the streams canopy.</p> <p>No herbicides will be applied near these waterways and other potential fish bearing waterways. Only cutting and topping will be performed as necessary.</p> <p>Cut trees will not be felled into any stream unless directed to do so by the state or federal fish &amp; wildlife.</p> <p>Vehicles will be kept away from water channels to minimize erosion and sedimentation of waters.</p> <p>Standard erosion control practices will be employed, if necessary, to prevent sedimentation of waters.</p>

**3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.**

See Handbook — [Protecting Other Species](#) for requirements.

Species	Measures
Various areas with Bull Trout	No herbicides will be used close to any body of water. Cut trees will not be felled into any stream unless directed to do so by the state or federal fish & wildlife.

**3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.**

See Handbook — [Visual Sensitive Areas](#) for requirements.

Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
None known at the present time	Cut, Chip, and or Trim/top as necessary

**3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.**

See Handbook – [Cultural Resources](#) for requirements.

Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
None Known	All land in control area is USFS, State, and private. Tribe land is not involved.

**3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.**

See Handbook – [Steep/Unstable Slopes](#) for requirements.

None

**3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.**

See Handbook – [Spanned Canyons](#) for requirements.

No Spanned Canyons

**4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS**

See Handbook — [Methods](#)

**4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.**

See Handbook — [Manual](#), [Mechanical](#), [Biological](#), [Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

None

**5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION**

**5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.**

See Handbook — [Debris disposal](#) for a checkbox list and requirements.

**Debris Disposal:**

**Chip** (Mechanical brush disposal unit cuts brush into chips 4 in. or less in diameter, and spread over ROW, piled on ROW, or trucked off site. Trunks too large for the chipper are limbed and the limbs chipped. Trunks are placed in rows along the edge of the right-of-way or scattered, as the situation requires.)

**Lop and Scatter** (Branches of a fallen tree are cut off (lopped) by ax or chainsaw, so the tree trunk lies flat on the ground. The trunks are occasionally cut in 1-to-2-m (4-to-8-ft.) lengths. The cut branches and trunks are then scattered on the ground, laid flat, and left to decompose.)

**Mulch** (Mulching is a debris treatment that falls between chipping and lop-and-scatter. The debris is cut into 1-to-2-ft. lengths, scattered on the right-of-way and left to decompose. This method is used when terrain and conditions do not allow the use of mechanical chipping equipment.)

**5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).**

See Handbook — [Reseeding/replanting](#) for requirements.

None

**5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.**

N/A

**5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.**

N/A

**6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS**

See handbook — [Monitoring](#) for requirements.

**6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.**

Inspection one year later

**6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.**

Inspection of site

**7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

See handbook — [Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation](#) for requirements. . Also prepare Supplement Analysis — [Supplement Analysis](#)— for signature.

**7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.**

None

**7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.**

No